



**HISPANIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
of NEW JERSEY**

Building Bridges to a Better Life

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PRESS RELEASE

**HDANJ RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR CORZINE'S
ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN**

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For Immediate Release:

New Brunswick, NJ (October 16, 2008) – Members of the Hispanic Director's Association were on hand to witness Governor Jon S. Corzine address a rare joint session of the New Jersey Legislature today in Trenton. Governor's Corzine's speech unveiled a multi-faceted plan to provide immediate assistance for New Jersey residents most affected by the current national economic recession.

The Governor's proposed plan will provide immediate assistance to those in greatest need. Specifically, the Governor will provide funds and legal aid for homeowners faced with foreclosure, emergency assistance at food banks, increased funding for energy assistance grants, and more state projects that accelerate job growth. These devices will be most beneficial for low-income populations in New Jersey. HDANJ Chairperson, Elsa Candelario, supports the Governor's initiative to aid struggling families in New Jersey, "We applaud the Governor's leadership during this tough economic crisis. The families that our agencies serve daily are hurting more than ever due to the economic climate. Therefore, it is imperative that government provide the assistance that is needed without

delay. We believe that the Governor's plan will meet the most critical needs of New Jersey's families who are struggling with the current financial crisis."

Although the bulk of Corzine's speech centered on increased spending for those in need, the Governor also said that state government will continue to cut costs due to impending reductions in revenue. These spending cuts will include a reduction in "equipment purchases, consultants and lower priority programs". Chairperson Candelario responds, "While we recognize the need to make cuts in the budget for equipment and consultants, we would like to express our concern for decreasing funds for 'low priority programs.' HDANJ hopes these cuts would not be directed towards programs that serve the poor, the vulnerable, and New Jersey's growing immigrant populations. The negative impact that the recent economic downturn has had on Hispanics in New Jersey has been hardest for those living below the poverty line." HDANJ proposes the Governor's office release a list of "low priority programs" to the public so that discussion on the matter can occur prior to action.

HDANJ is committed to making a concerted and sustained effort along with government officials and the community at large to provide solutions to the impending economic crisis. Chairperson Candelario adds, "We understand New Jersey's financial reality and support solutions that are fiscally sound. Wrapping support around the growing population of underserved Hispanic families who live in poverty must be considered an important priority. This kind of support will reduce homelessness, foreclosures, and child neglect. Collectively, we need to ensure that, especially now, state funds are being directed towards this vulnerable group. To that end, HDANJ will advocate that services for low income persons not be designated 'low priority programs.'"

The Hispanic Directors Association of New Jersey (HDANJ) is comprised of 30 Hispanic led nonprofits across the state of New Jersey. Collectively, our members serve more than 700,000 low-income families annually, providing an array of critical services. HDANJ is the only Hispanic non-profit Association in New Jersey with a mission targeted on the self sufficiency of the Hispanic population as well as the community at large. With members agencies located from Bergen to Cape May County and a 15 year track record of translating funding into effective services, the HDANJ has emerged as the trusted source of information for Hispanic family needs in the State.

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